

Strange Race of Giants Found in the Antarctic

Dr. F. A. Cook, the Brooklyn Explorer, Brings the First Photographs of the Biggest Race of Men in the World.

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK, earth, the men being all six footers, most of them measuring four to six inches above that mark.

What is more, these people, who are called the Onas, live on the verge of the Antarctic circle and go nude much of the time. The only coverings they ever wear are skins of animals loosely thrown around their shoulders. Even the women have no other garb. Possibly this is the best evidence that they are the most primitive people in the world.

That is what Dr. Cook thought when he first saw them. The monstrous forms of these men, armed with the simplest weapons, wooden clubs and bows and arrows, their brutal faces and scanty

FARTHEST SOUTH—

Danco Land is considered a part of the great Antarctic Continent, which has never before been seen by human eyes. The extreme southerly point which the photograph shows is in latitude 65 degrees 20 minutes south and longitude 64 degrees 10 minutes west.

This hitherto unknown Antarctic coast is surpassingly grand in its aspect. Its cliffs and mountains rise up two to three thousand feet perpendicularly from the water's edge. This majestic range of mountains is covered with glaciers and snow fields of dazzling whiteness.

Dr. Cook and the other members of the Belgica expedition made a dozen landings on this precipitous coast. They found that there were places on it where habitations could be established. There are no human inhabitants on it, so far as the Belgica party could discover.

But Dr. Cook thinks that it could be populated by transporting Eskimos there. There is abundant food for sustaining human life, in the penguins and seals. These animals and birds are much more evenly distributed and easier to kill than the polar bears, seal, otter and walrus that the Eskimos of the Arctic have to depend upon. Seals are found in such numbers in the Antarctic that Dr. Cook believes it would be profitable to hunt them. These, however, are the hair seals, and are not as valuable as the fur seals of the North Pacific.

Finback whales were also found in abundance in the Antarctic. American whalers don't think much of this variety, but the Norwegians have a method of their own of hunting them and find it very profitable. Dr. Cook believes that by establishing whaling stations on Danco Land or the neighboring Palmer Archipelago a whaling industry could be established.

Opposite Danco Land the Belgica party discovered a hitherto unknown group of forty or fifty islands, which they called the Palmer Archipelago. One of the largest of these islands Dr. Cook named Brooklyn Island.

covering of skins made them appear like the imaginary pictures of man in the earliest ages when he first appeared on the earth.

Polygamy prevails among them. One man is entitled to as many wives as he can support. But he rarely has more than two or three. So hard is the battle of life in their barren island that it requires all the prowess of a mighty man to keep even a small family.

The climate of Terra del Fuego is so cold that only grass and small trees and shrubs grow upon it. The vegetation, in fact, is more scanty than in the Klondike and most parts of Alaska.

There is none of the warmth and glow of the Alaskan Summer, though, on the other hand, the Winters are not quite so cold. Being entirely surrounded by water, the temperature is more uniform.

The natives came to have a superstitious fear that the white settlers poisoned them as well as tried to enslave them.

This resulted in a relentless war between them. The natives steal the settlers' sheep and kill the white men whenever they can. That is on the northern shore. They kill shipwrecked sailors, and they used to eat the poor sailors as well.

The English missionaries among the neighboring tribes of the weak and puny Alacoups and Yahgans caused those tribes of Indians to give up cannibalism. Their example influenced even the fierce Onas to gradually give up the cannibal

THE MOST DISTANT POINT OF LAND EVER PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.



AN ANTARCTIC WARRIOR.



TWO ANTARCTIC GIANTS COMPARED TO AMERICAN OF MEDIUM HEIGHT.

It was off Danco Land that the Belgica first entered the Antarctic ice pack, which kept the ship a prisoner from February, 1898, to March, 1899. It was while in that ice pack that the Belgica drifted 2,000 miles between 70 and 72 degrees south latitude and from the 80th meridian of west longitude to the 103rd meridian. How the scientific improved that long period in making magnetic and astronomical observations has already been told in the interviews with Dr. Cook printed immediately after his arrival last week.

It was while in this dangerous ice pack, also, that the position of the magnetic South Pole was ascertained. It was found to be in the open sea south of Cape Adair. The next Antarctic expedition, Dr. Cook thinks, will probably have no difficulty in sailing right over that fascinating spot where the magnetic needle will point directly downward.

But even more interesting than all these things is the discovery of the race of Antarctic giants.

These are the cannibal giants of the island of Terra del Fuego, south of Magellan Straits and near the Antarctic circle. Up to this time no travellers or explorers have been able to find out anything about these wild people. Only vague reports of them have come from sailors who narrowly escaped shipwreck on that bleak, frightful coast. The very existence of such a race of polar giants has been discredited by scientists.

But Dr. Cook, on his Antarctic trip, not only saw and talked with these curious people, but took photographs of them. He says that they are so unlike any other race of men that they are physiological puzzles.

We have always been accustomed to think that as we go toward the poles the human inhabitants become stunted like the trees and shrubs. See the Eskimos, for example. But here is a tribe of people that are the largest known race on the

Expert as Dr. Cook is in physiology and anthropology, he confesses that after spending several months on the island with these people they are as much a puzzle to him as at first.

Though they go practically naked in one of the coldest habitable climates in the world, these people have less hair upon their bodies than we who live in the temperate zone and cover and even smother ourselves in clothes.

Dr. Cook thought that it might be that there was a layer of fatty substance under the skin of these people, as in the case of the Esquimaux, which helped to resist the cold. He performed slight surgical operations upon them to test this theory and found it wrong. There was no more fat than on a man of the temperate zone; less in fact, for their hard brown skin seemed to wrap up a mass of solid muscle and tendons.

Their strength and endurance are remarkable. The men can outrun any horse on a long stretch. They can cover fifty miles in a few hours. To see a company of these wild men crossing a plain is like watching a herd of antelope skim over ground. Only their upright position, with their scanty goats' skins flying in the wind and the flourish of their clubs and bows and arrows shows that they are men instead of belonging to the lower animals.

The women of this singular race are only a little less tall and strong than the men. In their frail brush huts they are accustomed to go entirely without clothing.

But this is not, for lack of a certain degree of modesty and virtue. Indeed, virtue is one of the pronounced qualities of the young women. They were a little bashful about being photographed, but not more so than a New England milkmaid.

Of late years a few of these settlers have come to the northern shores of the island of Terra del Fuego. These pioneers, who live almost as isolated lives as the natives, have established sheep ranches, and have usurped the grassy hunting grounds of the natives for their own use as sheep pastures.

The settlers have even brutally shot the natives and taken their wives from them, or, in some cases, enslaved them. What was most terrible of all in the eyes of the natives, a few have been made to wear clothes.

It was found that under these changed conditions the wild people soon died. Consumption and measles carried them off like a plague.

Dr. Cook tried to find out how such a hardy race should so easily fall victims to disease. The popular idea among the settlers was that the mere wearing of clothes made the natives sensitive and caused their death. Dr. Cook became convinced that the cause was different.

He found that the settlers had ships which took their sheep to Chilian and Argentine markets and brought back provisions once a year. He believed that the men on these ships brought disease germs. These germs might not be present in large enough quantities or virulent enough to affect any white person, for the reason that civilized people have become inoculated through centuries of contact with the diseases. But the wild natives fell as easy victims to the infection as if to a pest-

habit. This is the only effect the missionaries have been able to produce on the Onas.

These natives have refused absolutely to let the missionaries come among them. Not only do they not want to be civilized, but they have no religious sense. They can't be made to understand what it means. There is nothing in their language to signify God, as far as is known. The nearest they approach to religion is to having a superstitious regard for their medicine men, who perform certain crude rites.

The savage and bitterly hostile nature of the Onas toward white men has thus far prevented scientists from anything about them.

Dr. Cook took advantage of a singular tradition to get among them. He heard the rumor that these people, who were so savage on the northern shore of Fuego Island, were peaceable and kindly disposed on the south shore. This was said to be due to the fact that a sort of Robinson Crusoe white man had settled on the south shore many years ago. He had been good to the Onas, had given them sheep to eat, and they had returned his kindness by being friendly to him and all other white men who landed on that shore of the island.

Incredible as this sounded, Dr. Cook decided to test the tradition. He left Punta Arenas on the Straits of Magellan, and



DR. F. A. COOK ON THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

All these photographs are copyrighted by Dr. Frederick A. Cook.



A CANNIBAL MOTHER.



THE ROYAL PENGUINS OF THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

cruised along the southern shore of Terra del Fuego. He finally found the good white man's home. His name was Thomas Bridges. He had at one time been a missionary, but went to Fuego Island as a settler forty years ago. Like William Penn, he had treated the cannibal Onas so well that they had come to like him. Dr. Cook found that it was actually true that the Onas would not kill, intending to go among the Onas, study their language, take measurements of the people, gather specimens of their clothing and implements and photograph them in their homes.

Dr. Cook is going to write out a full and entire account of these people and put it, together with the collection of many of this newly discovered race, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York or the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.